

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 180417 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3958

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6183

E GMO.: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, CH, TW, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 5303

SUMMARY: PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION CONTINUES TO MAKE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON JAPAN. DELEGATION LEADER LIAO AND PRIMIN TANAKA USED THEIR MAY 14 MEETING TO EMPHASIZE PUBLICLY THEIR SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN JAPAN- CHINA RELATIONS. DELEGATION HAS CONTINUED EFFORTS DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH OVERSEAS CHINESE, INCLUDING THOSE FROM TAIWAN. DELEGATION HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED ANTI- SOVIET THEMES OR CRITICISM OF US BASES IN JAPAN. FONOFF RELUCTANTLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT DELEGATION CONDUCTING ITS ACTIVITIES WITH CONSIDERABLE DISCRETION.

END SUMMARY

1. FROM MAY 2 TO MAY 10, 55 MEMBER CHINESE FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS WHICH TRAVELLED THROUGHOUT JAPAN, STOPPING IN ALMOST ONE HALF OF JAPANESE PREFECTURES AND MUNICIPALITIES FROM HOKKAIDO TO OKINAWA. ACCORDING TO ALL REPORTS, GROUPS WERE WARMLY WELCOMED EVERYWHERE THEY WENT. TRAVELS AND

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MEETINGS PROVIDED MATERIAL FOR CONTINUING FLOOD OF FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE. DELEGATION HEAD, LIAO CHENG- CHIH, IS NOW CONDUCTING ROUND OF FAREWELL CALLS PRIOR TO MAY 18 RETURN TO PRC.

2. LIAO HAD WELL PUBLICIZED 30- MINUTE MEETING WITH PRIMIN TANAKA MAY 14. BOTH LIAO AND TANAKA USED OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE TO PRESS (WHICH HAS BEEN FOCUSING UPON DIFFICULTIES IN GOJ- PRC AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS) THEIR SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN JAPAN- CHINA RELATIONS AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH NEGOTIATIONS OF AGREEMENTS CONCERNING AVIATION, SHIPPING, TRADE AND FISHERIES AND OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. FONMIN OHIRA HOSTED FORMAL DINNER FOR LIAO AND EIGHT DEPUTY LEADERS OF DELEGATION MAY 11. LDP DIETMEN FURUI AND FUJIYAMA SEPARATELY HOSTED SMALL INFORMAL DINNERS ON MAY 10 AND MAY 13 RESPECTIVELY TO WHICH BOTH LIAO AND OHIRA WERE INVITED. THESE DINNERS PROBABLY PROVIDED MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS.

3. LIAO AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE MET REPEATEDLY WITH CHINESE COMMUNITY LEADERS IN TOKYO AND ELSEWHERE. NCNA REPORTED RATHER FULLY LIAO' S MEETING WITH TOKYO ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE RESIDENTS MAY 11. ACCORDING TO NCNA LIAO URGED CHINESE RESIDENTS TO " REMAIN IN CLOSE UNITY WITH JAPANESE PEOPLE, EARNESTLY LEARN FROM THEM, AND RESPECT AUTHORITY OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND (ITS) RESPECTIVE LAZS." LIAO ALSO ASKED CHINESE RESIDENTS TO " UNITE WITH COMPATRIOTS FROM TAIWAN AND MAE EFFORTS FOR THE GREAT CAUSE OF LIBERATING TAIWAN AND UNIFYING MOTHERLAND." LIAO REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DISTINCTIONS MADE BETWEEN PATRIOTS " WHETHER THEY COME FORWARD EARLY OR LATE."

4. DELEGATION HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, WITH OVERSEAS CHINESE OF TAIWANESE ORIGIN, WHO COMPRISE ABOUT ONE- HALF OF JAPAN' S OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY. ON MAY 13, DELEGATION DEPUTY MA CHUN- KU AND EIGHT OTHERS WHO WERE EITHER MEMBERS OF CHINESE PEOPLES POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) OR CHINESE OF TAIWANESE ORIGIN MET IN TOKYO FOR MORE THAN FOUR HOURS WITH ABOUT 100 OVERSEAS CHINESE OF TAIWANESE ORIGIN. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GROUP MEMBERS DESCRIBED THEIR EXPERIENCES ON MAINLAND AND URGED TAIWANESE TO VISIT PRC. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS, GROUP MEMBERS REPORTEDLY MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON PRC POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AFTER UNIFICATION: 1) PRC POLICY WOULD BE BASED UPON REALITIES IN TAIWAN, 2) TAIWAN' S
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STANDARD OF LIVING WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DECLINE AND 3) SUITABLE POLITICAL FIGURES WOULD BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE POSITIONS.

5. LIAO AND OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE MADE ONLY VERY LOW KEY CRITICISMS OF SOVIET UNION. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, GROUP' S VISIT TO HAKKAIDO DID NOT OCCASION SIGNIFICANT RESTATEMENT OF PRC SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE RECOVERY OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

WHILE JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT ONE MEMBER OF GROUP DID PUBLICLY STATE CHINESE SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE POSITION ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES, NCNA REPORT OF GROUP'S ACTIVITIES DID NOT MENTION THESE REMARKS, THUS UNDERLINING DELEGATION INTENTION TO AVOID THIS ISSUE. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL DAYS AFTER DELEGATION DEPARTED HOKKAIDO, NCNA REPORTED MAY 8 MEETING IN SAPPORO OF JAPANESE LEAGUE FOR RETURN OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

6. IN VISITS TO SASEBO AND OKINAWA, AS THROUGHOUT VISIT, DELEGATION MEMBERS GENERALLY AVOIDED PUBLIC COMMENT ON US BASES AND US- JAPAN MST, DESPITE BEING BAITED ON SUBJECT SEVERAL TIMES. AFTER GROUP'S THREE- HOUR TOUR AROUND PERIMETER OF US BASES IN OKINAWA MAY 10, MA CHUN- KU, STOPPED AT SCHOOL WHICH TROUBLED BY NOISE POLLUTION FROM MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND REMARKED THAT HE " IS OPPOSED TO PRESENCE OF MILITARY BASES AS YOU ARE." (NAHA 205). WHILE MA'S REMARK GIVEN HEAVY PLAY IN OKINAWAN PRESS, NCNA REPORT OF GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN OKINAWA DID NOT MENTION IT.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 10, FONOFF CHINA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF, OGURA, WHO HAD EARLIER BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF PRC'S INTENTIONS IN DISPATCHING SUCH A NON- GOVERNMENTAL MISSION, RELUCTANTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LIAO HAD BEEN CONDUCTING HIMSELF WITH CONSIDERABLE DISCRETION.
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